

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-13 have been amended as follows:

1. A topical preparation comprising at least one biotechnologically obtained, water-insoluble, linear poly- α -glucan.
2. The topical preparation of claim 1, wherein the poly- α -glucan has a degree of branching of at most 8%.
3. The topical preparation of claim 2, wherein the poly- α -glucan has a degree of branching of less than 4 % in the 6-position, and a degree of branching of at most 2% in the other positions.
4. The topical preparation of claim 1, wherein the poly- α -glucan has a degree of branching of less than 0.5% in the 6-position.
5. The topical preparation of claim 1, wherein the poly- α -glucan is poly-1,4- α -D-glucan.
6. The topical preparation of claim 1, wherein the poly- α -glucan is present in an amount of about 0.5 to about 80% by weight, based on the total weight of the topical preparation.
7. The topical preparation of claim 1, wherein the poly- α -glucan has been obtained biocatalytically.

8. The topical preparation of claim 1, wherein the topical preparation is a cosmetic composition.

9. The topical preparation of claim 1, wherein the topical preparation is a human or veterinary medical preparation for external application.

10. The topical preparation of claim 1, wherein the topical preparation is selected from the group consisting of creams, compact creams, lotions, milks, masks, powders, ointments, ointment bases and soaps.

11. The topical preparation of claim 10, wherein the topical preparation is selected from the group consisting of creams, powders and ointment bases for make-up.

12. The topical preparation of claim 11, wherein the make-up is blusher, eye shadow or lipstick.

13. A biotechnologically obtained, water-insoluble, linear poly- α -glucan.

Please add new claims 14 and 15 as follows:

14. The topical preparation of claim 8, wherein the cosmetic composition is a bodycare composition.

15. The topical preparation of claim 8, wherein the cosmetic composition is a decorative cosmetic.